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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,100	12/28/2001	Srinivas S. Pitla	10541-628	8418

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EXAMINER

LOPEZ, FRANK D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3745

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,100

Applicant(s)

PITLA ET AL.

Examiner

F. Daniel Lopez

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 12 line 3 "a front head" should be --said front end--, and "an inner wall" should be --said inner wall-- (since they refer back to that of claim 11 line 3); in claim 12 line 4 "a crank case" should be --said crank case-- (since it refers back to that of claim 11 line 4). Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

Applicant is advised that should claims 2; and 3-5 be found allowable, claims 12; 13-15 and 21-23, respectively, will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 18, 19, 21-23, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kimura et al (5,941,161).

Claims 1 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by either Terauchi (5,615,599) or Rasmussen.

Claims 1 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kimura et al (6,010,313).

Claims 1-5, 8-15, 18-23, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hiramatsu et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 2-5 and 11-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rasmussen in view of Masnik. Rasmussen discloses a piston anti-rotation mechanism for a swash plate compressor comprising a housing having an inner wall and a front end connected to an inner wall defining a crank case; a plurality of piston receiving bores (1) formed in the front end adjacent one of a plurality of anti-rotation grooves (22) formed in the inner wall; an anti-rotation piston having a skirt (13) extending from a bottom end of a body (3, 4), wherein the body has a first radius of curvature (for piston 3) and slidably movable in the bore; wherein the skirt has a planer outer surface (see e.g. fig 2) integrally connected to an arcuate outer surface with a second radius of curvature slidable in the anti-rotation groove; wherein the axis (19) of rotation of the skirt is within the piston, between the inner wall and the axis (1a) of rotation of the piston, and offset from the axis of rotation of the piston, to prevent rotation of the piston; wherein a swash plate (6) is angularly disposed about a first portion of a drive shaft (7), located in the crank case; wherein the skirt forms a plate receiving slot through which the swash plate angularly rotates to slidably move the piston along the bore; with the slot has first and second shoe pockets respectively formed in first and second walls; with a shoe (11, 12) in each pocket; but does not disclose that the second radius is greater than the first radius; or that the front end has a drive shaft side, through which the drive shaft extends.

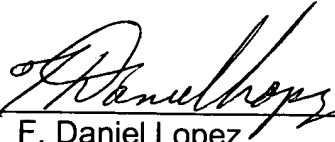
Since it is not inventive to discover optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation, unless the range is a critical range (i.e. the critical range produces an unexpected result, which is different in kind and not just in degree), and since making the second radius larger than the first radius is a workable range of values for the radius; it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the second radius of Rasmussen larger than the first radius, as a matter of engineering expediency. Note that the applicant has the burden to prove that this value for the radius is a critical value.

Official notice is taken that a front end of a housing has a drive shaft side, through which a drive shaft extends, for the purpose of closing off the housing. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one having ordinary skill in the art to make the front end of the housing of Rasmussen with a drive shaft side, through which a drive shaft extends, for the purpose of closing off the housing.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Lopez whose telephone number is (703) 308-0008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM -4:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Look, can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.


F. Daniel Lopez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3745
December 16, 2002